

1094

1912 Dates J-BK

France

Normandy was again  
invaded by William II  
of England

## Valencia Falls to El Cid

The legendary El Cid was a Castilian whose real name was RODRIGO DIAZ de Vivar. He was the greatest military leader of the 11th Cen. Spain: an age when Christian population was beginning to push forward its frontier. A shortage of manpower encouraged the elevation of social lords, and military heroes could be made almost overnight. El Cid made his name first in the service of Sanchez, who from 1065 until 1072 disputed control of Castile and León with his

Alfonso VI. In 1081, he was banished from Castile for having led an unauthorized raid on Alfonso's client Saracenic state, Toledo, and entered the service of the Muslim ruler of Saragossa. By winning victory after victory against both Christian & Muslim opponents, he gained a reputation as the general who never lost a battle.

Alfonso's attempts at reconciliation (after the conquest of Toledo in 1085 was followed by ALMORAVID 'invasions') failed. El Cid followed his own star. In 1094 he conquered Valencia and ruled it as an independent kingdom (though in the name of Alfonso) until his death in 1099. But El Cid's achievement was transient. The Almoravids reconquered Valencia in 1102 and retained it until 1238.

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Tendon  
epidemic

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"Geographical Dictionary"  
by Al-Bakri

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Spain

PEDRO I, King of NAVARRE  
and ARAGON